

HOUSE No. 4838

Section 176 contained in the engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2011 for the maintenance of the departments, boards, commissions, institutions and certain activities of the Commonwealth, for interest, sinking fund and serial bond requirements and for certain permanent improvements (see House, No. 4800), which had been returned by His Excellency the Governor with recommendation of amendment (for message, see Attachment K of House, No. 4840). July 1, 2010.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Ten

An Act to conduct a study of chemicals infiltrating aquifers and bedrock fissures along the Interstate 95 corridor.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide forthwith safe drinking water, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following meanings
2 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:-

3 "I-95 corridor", the area within the town of Boxford located approximately 1,500 feet from
4 any portion of interstate highway route 95.

5 "Safe drinking water", water that meets or exceeds all primary and secondary standards

6 and recommended guidelines for drinking water as defined by the department of environmental
7 protection.

8 (b) The Massachusetts Department of Transportation shall conduct a comprehensive study
9 to determine the cumulative and immediate effects of deicing chemical storage and deicing
10 operations on the groundwater aquifers and bedrock fissures within the I-95 corridor.
11 Specifically, the study shall determine how and why deicing chemicals applied to interstate
12 highway route 95 have infiltrated the groundwater aquifers and bedrock fissures and what
13 measures need to be taken to prevent it from occurring in the future. The study shall provide
14 recommendations as to: (1) the proximate causes of deicing chemicals, including sodium and
15 chloride, infiltration into the groundwater aquifers and bedrock fissures within the I-95 corridor;
16 (2) short-term and long-term remedial actions necessary to restore groundwater quality to a safe
17 drinking water standard within the I-95 corridor; (3) a plan to modify highway drainage systems
18 to prevent storm water runoff and highway drainage from adversely impacting aquifers, bedrock
19 fissures and adjacent wetland resource areas; and (4) alternative means to provide a reliable and
20 adequate safe drinking water supply to the residents located within the I-95 corridor that meet all
21 state and local requirements.

22 (c) The department shall conduct the study utilizing an independent consultant. The
23 development of the study scope of work, the selection of the independent consultant and the
24 review of study recommendations shall all be conducted jointly by the Department and a
25 committee to be appointed by the Boxford board of selectmen and the Boxford Board of Health.
26 Within 1 year after the effective date of this act, the department shall file a report of its activities
27 and the developed recommendations with the governor and the clerks of the senate and house of
28 representatives who shall forward the same to the house and senate committees on ways and

29 means and other committees as appropriate. To the extent the report provides for disbursement of
30 appropriations or other moneys authorized by the general court, the plan shall be subject to the
31 approval of the secretary of transportation and the secretary of administration and finance.